

In the Abstract

Please substitute the following Abstract, which is substantially as appears in the issued parent patent 6,656,382, for use in the present application:

Minerals that reversibly fix ions, in particular NO_3 , i.e. that can exchange one anion for another anion, can be used as fertilizers and soil conditioners for the elimination of nitrate. The fertilizers and soil conditioners include layered double hydroxides (LDHs) that contain exchangeable fixed anions in the intermediary layers.